



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Treasurer Lockyer Announces Expansion of Low-Cost Loan Program for Small and Rural Health Facilities** *Higher Maximum Loan Amount of \$1 Million Will Boost Access to Care*

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Bill Lockyer announced the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) today expanded a low-cost loan program that helps small and rural health facilities increase access to care.

“Broadening this program will help more small and rural providers build facilities and buy equipment at less cost,” said Lockyer, who serves as CHFFA’s chairman. “That means they will be able to increase access to care for the communities, families and children they serve.”

CHFFA today increased to \$1 million from \$750,000 the maximum loan amount provided under the Healthcare Expansion Loan Program II (HELP II). HELP II provides three percent, fixed-interest loans to California’s nonprofit small or rural health facilities and hospitals. The loans may be used to purchase or construct new facilities, remodel or renovate existing facilities, or purchase equipment or furnishings. To be eligible, facilities’ gross annual revenues cannot exceed \$30 million.

Since Lockyer became Treasurer and CHFFA’s chairman in 2007, HELP II loans have helped ensure about 3.5 million people can see a doctor when they need care.

The HELP II program is funded in part by fees CHFFA receives when it issues tax-exempt bonds for public hospitals and private, nonprofit health care providers. Since 2007, CHFFA has issued \$11 billion of tax-exempt bonds to help finance the construction or renovation of facilities, the purchase of land or equipment, and access to working capital.

For more information about CHFFA and its financing programs, including HELP II, visit [www.treasurer.ca.gov/chffa](http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/chffa).

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